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Letter dated 20 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Lebanon in September 2011 (see annex). The document was prepared under my own responsibility, following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Lebanon (September 2011)

Introduction

Lebanon assumed the presidency of the Security Council in September 2011, during which the Council was engaged in a comprehensive programme that addressed a range of issues, including: non-proliferation (Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)), Cyprus, Liberia, the Sudan and South Sudan, Libya, Sierra Leone, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Haiti, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the maintenance of international peace and security/conflict prevention, the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, and Afghanistan.

On 2 September, the Council held consultations and adopted its programme of work for September 2011. After the consultations, the President of the Council gave a briefing for non-members of the Council and for the press about the programme of work.

During the month, the Council held 20 formal meetings, 3 of which were held in private. The 17 public meetings included six briefings and three debates. The Council also held 13 informal consultations, adopted six resolutions and one presidential statement, and issued four press statements.

Africa

Liberia

On 7 September, the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIL, Ellen Margrethe Løj, gave a briefing, which was followed by a question-and-answer session and exchange of views.

On 13 September, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Liberia, during which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIL reported on the work of the Mission. She stated that the holding of free, fair and peaceful presidential and legislative elections in Liberia on 11 October would provide an opportunity to consolidate peace in the country. She emphasized that it was the responsibility of all Liberians to ensure the success of the elections and the irreversibility of peace in their country.

The Permanent Representative of Jordan and Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, participated in the meeting. He explained the progress achieved by the Commission in such areas as the rule of law and security sector reform, and

underlined the urgent need for support in other important areas, such as the judiciary and national reconciliation.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, Toga Gayewea McIntosh, also participated in the meeting and noted that his country had seen eight years of unbroken peace. He added that the upcoming elections would test whether or not the Liberian people were capable of conducting fair, transparent and peaceful elections. He underlined the major contributions made by UNMIL to peacebuilding in Liberia, and appealed to the Council to be cautious when discussing the Mission's drawdown.

In the consultations that followed, Council members welcomed the progress made by Liberia, especially in the preparations for elections in October 2011. They expressed the view that the success of those elections, and the peaceful inauguration of a new Administration, would be critical to the consolidation of the progress that Liberia had achieved over the past eight years. They also expressed their support for continuing security sector reform and the capacity-building of judicial and security institutions, and expressed concern about the challenges confronting Liberia, such as ethnic and communal tensions, disputes over land, drug trafficking, high levels of unemployment among young people, and the impact of refugee flows to Liberia caused by the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Some Council members noted that a technical assessment mission was expected to visit Liberia after the inauguration of the elected Government in 2012 to develop detailed proposals for the next stages of the drawdown of UNMIL.

On 16 September, the Council adopted resolution 2008 (2011), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIL for 12 months.

Libya

On 9 September, the Council held consultations on Libya and was briefed by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on post-conflict planning for Libya, Ian Martin. The Special Adviser reported that the initial priority of the United Nations in Libya after the fall of Tripoli was to address humanitarian needs by providing water, food and medicine, in addition to the evacuation of foreign nationals. He stated that the Libyans had requested assistance in bringing about security sector reform and preventing the proliferation of weapons. He expressed the hope that a United Nations mission would be established to provide support for Libya in the six areas identified by the Secretary-General in a letter addressed to the Council.

Council members discussed ways in which to address the crisis. Some members welcomed the expansion of the National Transitional Council to make it more representative, and called for the amendment of sanctions to meet the needs of the Libyan people and ensure the safety of a mission. Other members called for an immediate ceasefire and the start of political dialogue, and expressed concern about reports concerning the disappearance of anti-aircraft missiles and the proliferation of weapons in Libya, which might affect the security of neighbouring countries.

On 16 September, the Council adopted resolution 2009 (2011), by which it established the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), under the leadership of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for an initial period of three months.

On 26 September, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in Libya, during which the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Lynn Pascoe, reported that on 19 September, the Secretary-General had appointed Ian Martin as his Special Adviser on post-conflict planning for Libya. He said that reconciliation, arms control, transitional justice and the welfare of migrants were a few of the many challenges facing the country's transitional authorities. He added that the three-month mandate given to UNSMIL offered an opportunity to provide immediate assistance and advice to the National Transitional Council. Regarding arms proliferation, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs stated that it was imperative that the National Transitional Council and the international community establish control over the large stockpiles of sophisticated weapons amassed by the Qadhafi regime, including ground-to-air missiles, and added that the falling of those weapons into terrorists' hands would pose a serious threat to the region.

The Council was also briefed by the Permanent Representative of Portugal, José Filipe Moraes Cabral, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya. He noted that by resolution 2009 (2011), the Council had relaxed some sanctions. He added that the Committee had requested the Panel of Experts on Libya to look both "backwards and forward" when investigating incidents of non-compliance with the sanctions, and to build a cooperative relationship with the new authorities as well as with UNSMIL.

The Chair of the Executive Office of the National Transitional Council, Mahmoud Jibril, participated in the meeting and made a statement. He thanked the Council for adopting two historic resolutions which contributed to protecting the lives of thousands of innocent civilians, and expressed his appreciation for the partial unfreezing of funds. He appealed to the Council to lift the freeze completely, as the situation that it had been intended to counter no longer existed. As for the rights of migrant workers and other groups, he stated that any abuses or vengeful acts were contrary to the policy of the National Transitional Council. He noted that strong army and police force were needed in order to maintain peace and stability in Libya.

In the consultations that followed, Council members underlined the importance of maintaining stability and respecting the sovereignty of Libya, and expressed flexibility regarding the proposal to lift the freeze on Libyan assets, but without haste. Some members expressed their concern about the security situation in Libya and the proliferation of weapons, particularly chemical weapons, and highlighted the key role that the United Nations and the League of Arab States needed to play in Libya.

Sierra Leone

On 12 September, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone. The Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), Michael von der Schulenburg, briefed the Council and stated that Sierra Leone was achieving economic and social development in a peaceful and stable environment. He added that as Sierra Leone approached the 2012 general elections, it was important to build on that progress, consolidate peace and avert the resurgence of tensions and civil war.

The Permanent Representative of Canada, Guillermo Rishchynski, participated in the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. He stated that he considered Sierra Leone to be a success story, and emphasized the need for all stakeholders to engage in an open and productive high-level dialogue as the country prepared for the 2012 elections.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone, Joseph Dauda, also participated in the meeting and delivered a statement. He said that his Government remained committed to conducting peaceful, free, fair and credible elections in 2012, and to enhancing the participation of women in politics.

In the consultations that followed, Council members commended the progress made in Sierra Leone, and indicated that they considered the achievements in the areas of peacebuilding consolidation and socio-economic development to be a testimony to the efforts of UNIPSIL and the Government to promote national cohesion. Council members expressed their continued support for Sierra Leone in its efforts to conduct credible, fair, peaceful and democratic elections in 2012, and called on all parties to work together in creating favourable conditions for the electoral process. Council members commended the progress made in maintaining peace, stability and development, expressed their concern about the challenges confronting Sierra Leone, including youth unemployment, illicit drug trafficking, organized crime, corruption and national capacity-building, and called upon the international community to continue to provide support and assistance to Sierra Leone. They also expressed support for the Peacebuilding Commission and UNIPSIL for their work in the country.

On 14 September, the Council adopted resolution 2005 (2011), by which it extended the mandate of UNIPSIL for 12 months.

Somalia

On 14 September, the Council held a debate on the situation in Somalia. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, briefed the Council and presented the report of the Secretary-General. He explained the positive developments achieved in the humanitarian situation in Somalia, as a new district in the Bay region had been declared a famine-free zone on 5 September, but he cautioned that difficult times still lay ahead. He also informed the Council that the African Union had held its first-ever pledging conference on 25 August, raising $350 million in cash and in kind, and he appealed to the international community to address the whole challenge of drought in the Horn of Africa.

The Special Representative noted that the peace process had taken a great step forward and stated that "The game has fundamentally changed", as the long-awaited consultative meeting on ending the transition had been convened from 4 to 6 September in Mogadishu, and the situation in the capital had improved following the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab two months earlier. He also reiterated his call to all armed groups to renounce violence and join the peace process, and warned that extremists were likely to resort to terrorism. He stated that the Government needed assistance in order to extend the territory under its control and to fill the vacuum left by the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab. He added that African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Government forces must be equipped to respond to those threats.

The Special Representative of the Chair of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, also addressed the Council and expressed his appreciation for its invaluable support in creating an environment in Somalia conducive to the provision of humanitarian aid. He expressed the support of the African Union for the Kampala Accord and appealed to the Council to reiterate its commitment to authorize a peacekeeping operation in Somalia to replace AMISOM.

The Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, also addressed the Council. He explained that Somali security forces were overextended, and called on international partners to help his Government to enlarge and improve the security and police forces. He reiterated his Government's commitment to place priority on security, reconciliation and good governance, in accordance with the Kampala Accord and the road map adopted in Mogadishu, with the hope of establishing a permanent Government by August 2012.

Council members welcomed the signing of the Kampala Accord and the adoption of the road map to end the transition. They stressed the importance of political will on the part of the Somalis to accomplish the tasks on time, with the support of the international community. They also called for accountability and transparency on the part of leaders in that regard, and commended the role of AMISOM and its troop-contributing countries. They expressed deep concern about the impact of famine on the Somali people, and highlighted the importance of international efforts to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia.

On 30 September, the Council adopted resolution 2010 (2011), in which it authorized the States members of the African Union to maintain the deployment of AMISOM until 31 October 2012, and requested the Union to increase its force strength to 12,000 personnel.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 8 September, the Council held consultations on the Sudan and South Sudan, during which the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Council about the progress in the process of liquidating the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, the security situation in Abyei, and the progress made in the deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The briefing also covered the ongoing post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement negotiations between the Sudan and South Sudan, including the finalization of border management agreements.

The Deputy Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Philippe Lazzarini, updated the Council on the humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile State.

The Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Hilde Johnson, briefed the Council by videoconference on the situation in South Sudan and the progress made in the start-up of the Mission.

Council members expressed their support for the three United Nations missions in the Sudan and South Sudan, and welcomed the mediation efforts of President Mbeki. They urged all parties to stop fighting, to facilitate access to humanitarian aid, and to settle their differences through dialogue. Some Council members called on the parties to find a solution for the Abyei region by

implementing the agreement reached by the Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa on 30 July, and to seek the assistance of UNISFA for border control.

On 29 September, the Council held consultations during which the Permanent Representative of Colombia, Néstor Osorio, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, presented to the Council the 90-day report on the work of the Committee, which covered its activities from 21 June to 29 September 2011. Council members exchanged views on the activities of the Committee and expressed support for its work.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 21 September, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the terrorist attack that had occurred in Kabul on 20 September, causing the death of Burhanuddin Rabbani, Chair of the Afghanistan High Peace Council. Council members reiterated their commitment to support the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to advance the peace and reconciliation process, and their determination to combat all forms of terrorism.

On 29 September, the Council held a debate on the situation in Afghanistan, during which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Staffan de Mistura, briefed the Council. He stated that there was no alternative to a political solution, and stressed the need to seize the window of opportunity for dialogue and reconciliation that existed, despite the recent killing of Mr. Rabbani, who had been leading national reconciliation talks. The Special Representative also expressed his concern about the high number of civilian casualties and called for more efforts to protect civilians.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Zalmai Rassoul, stressed that the reconciliation process would continue despite the loss of Mr. Rabbani. He added that regional and international support was needed if the process was to succeed. He stated that his country looked forward to the Istanbul conference in November 2011 and the Bonn conference in December.

Council members welcomed and expressed support for the role of UNAMA. They condemned the assassination of Mr. Rabbani and underlined the importance of the continuation of the reconciliation process, as well as the successful transition to full Afghan responsibility and ownership. They also expressed their concern about the security situation, particularly with regard to the protection of civilians.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 27 September, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, Najib Mikati, presided over the meeting and made brief introductory remarks in his national capacity.

Mr. Mikati stated that the "winds of change" in the Middle East had ushered in a "Palestinian spring" that had led to the formal submission by Palestine of an

application for membership in the United Nations. He called for an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands, as laid out in the Arab Peace Initiative. He condemned the attacks against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), reaffirmed the commitment of Lebanon to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), and called on Israel to end its violations of Lebanese sovereignty. He reaffirmed the commitment of Lebanon to respect all international resolutions, including those related to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council. He stated that it was not easy to chart a way forward, as the Palestinian and Israeli positions remained far apart. He added that the efforts of the Quartet and the expected proposals of the parties could help to resume negotiations. He summarized the Quartet statement of 23 September, explaining that the goals would be to make substantial progress within six months, to convene an international conference in Moscow at the appropriate time, and to reach an agreement no later than the end of 2012. He reaffirmed that settlements were illegal and contrary to the road map commitments of Israel, and condemned the rocket attacks fired into Israel from Gaza. The Under-Secretary-General referred to the Palestinian application for membership in the United Nations. He noted that the matter was before the Council and underlined the institutional readiness of the Palestinian Authority to run a State.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs stated that the situation in the UNIFIL area remained generally stable. He noted that the freedom of movement of the force had been impeded in an incident on 13 September that had resulted in minor injury to a UNIFIL soldier. He added that Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace continued on an almost daily basis.

With regard to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs stated that the political and human rights crisis had escalated in the country and had resulted in at least 2,700 deaths since March 2011. He added that the polarization continued to deepen between the Syrian regime and a growing popular opposition that continued to organize protests across the country. He noted that on 15 September, a coalition of Syrian opposition leaders had announced the formation of the Syrian National Council.

In the consultations that followed, Council members called on the Palestinian and Israeli sides to refrain from taking unilateral actions that might jeopardize the peace process. Some Council members supported the application of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations, and stressed the need to stop all settlement activities and resume negotiations. Some members voiced their opposition to the application of Palestine, and stressed that the two-State solution could be achieved only through direct negotiations.

With regard to the Syrian Arab Republic, some Council members called on the Council to assume its responsibilities, as the Syrian regime continued to use repression and violence against peaceful demonstrators. Other Council members expressed their concern that the direction of the crisis in the country appeared to be towards civil war. These members called for a cautious approach and voiced their refusal to resolve the existing problems in the Syrian Arab Republic through the imposition of sanctions, citing the need to resolve them through dialogue and reform.

Concerning Lebanon, Council members welcomed the affirmation by Mr. Mikati that Lebanon would respect its obligations under the relevant international resolutions, including those related to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and expressed support for the efforts of UNIFIL and the Lebanese army in maintaining security and stability.

Yemen

On 26 September, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press on the situation in Yemen, expressing grave concern at the continued deterioration in the economic, humanitarian and security situation in the country, including the threat from Al-Qaida. They also urged all sides to reject violence and to show maximum restraint. They called on all parties to move forward urgently in an inclusive, orderly and Yemeni-led process of political transition, on the basis of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative.

Europe

Cyprus

On 7 September, the Council held consultations on Cyprus during which the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, briefed members on the status of the negotiations in the country and on the Secretary-General's good offices in that regard.

Council members welcomed the engagement of the Secretary-General and the efforts of his Special Adviser in moving forward the negotiations between the leaders of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

On 15 September, the Council heard a briefing on UNMIK, during which the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported about the rising tension in northern Kosovo. He described the events that had begun on 25 July regarding the management of Gates 1 and 31, and appealed to the parties to maintain calm, to refrain from unilateral actions and overheated rhetoric, and to commit themselves to reconciliation, dialogue and peace. He emphasized that UNMIK would continue to work closely with the parties to calm the situation.

After the briefing, Council members continued their discussions in a private meeting, with the participation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić and Enver Hoxhaj of Kosovo.

In the consultations that followed, Council members continued to exchange views on the situation in Kosovo.

On 28 September, the Council held consultations on UNMIK. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the sequence of events that had taken place around Gates 1 and 31, which had led to several injuries among the personnel of the International Security Force in Kosovo and civilians. Council members exchanged views about the situation.

Americas

Haiti

On 14 September, the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, Mariano Fernández, briefed the Council on the situation in Haiti and on the work of the Mission. The Special Representative exchanged views with the representatives of participating countries.

On 16 September, the Council held a debate on the question concerning Haiti, during which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH stated that Haiti had witnessed a historic event in the peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected President to another from a different political party; however, he cautioned that the transition was not without difficulties. He outlined the challenges facing Haiti, including slow reconstruction, high food and fuel prices, and a continuing cholera epidemic. He stated that the security situation in the country was calm but fragile, citing the assassination of a MINUSTAH sergeant in Port-au-Prince as an example of security challenges. He stressed that MINUSTAH needed to remain active in ensuring national security, and underlined that the peacekeeping operation in Haiti was not a long-term development agency, but a means to create the environment needed for sustainable and lasting peace. He added that further progress in Haiti depended on the generation of political will and on continuing international support.

Council members noted the improvement in the humanitarian situation in Haiti, and called for the redoubling of efforts to house the thousands of internally displaced people still in camps. They stressed that continued international engagement was necessary to ensure that all pressing humanitarian needs were met. They described the recent democratic process in Haiti as a historic step that could foster political stability, and stressed that it was imperative that all stakeholders make the necessary concessions so that the Government could lead the reconstruction and socio-economic development efforts, and reinforce the capacities of the Haitian State and people. Most Council members expressed agreement with the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mandate of MINUSTAH be extended for one year, with a partial reduction in the military and police forces that the Council had authorized following the earthquake.

Other issues

Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs

On 15 September, the Council held consultations during which the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed members on the situations in Iraq, Libya and Yemen.

With respect to Iraq, the Under-Secretary-General said that the Secretary-General had appointed Martin Kobler of Germany as his Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). He added that the Iraqi Government had decided to close Camp Ashraf, whose residents included supporters of Mujaheddin e Khalq, and stated that deporting them to their

home country raised genuine concern for the United Nations. He also pointed to the importance of finding a solution to the ongoing problems between Iraq and Kuwait, including border demarcation and prisoners.

Council members expressed their support for the appointment of the Special Representative for Iraq and stated that the situation remained unstable. They stressed that it was important that Iraq respect its international commitments and obligations, especially those related to finding solutions to the outstanding problems with Kuwait, including borders and refugees.

With regard to Yemen, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs stated that the situation in Yemen was complex, that the humanitarian situation was becoming very difficult, and that the security situation continued to deteriorate as tension escalated in the north of Sana'a between the Republican Guard and some tribes opposed to the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He added that President Saleh had not signed the accord proposed by the Gulf Cooperation Council. He stated that the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Yemen, Jamal Benomar, would return to the country to continue his efforts.

Council members urged all sides in Yemen to show maximum restraint and to reject violence, and called on all Yemeni parties to start an inclusive dialogue. They expressed the view that the way forward was through a Yemeni-led process of political transition that met the needs and aspirations of the Yemeni people for change. They also welcomed the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General.

Concerning Libya, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs expressed concern regarding the spillover effect of the crisis in Libya on its neighbours, such as Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger, especially the fact that the extensive armoury sites belonging to the Qadhafi regime lay abandoned or the armouries had gone missing. He added that the number of those migrating to Europe through Libya had doubled during the Libyan crisis. He also underlined the importance of post-conflict reconstruction in Libya, and of the promotion of democratic institutions, the rule of law and human rights.

Council members expressed concern about the wide spread of arms in Libya, and called for the disarmament of armed groups so that the proliferation of arms would not create instability within and outside the country.

Admission of new members

On 26 September, the Council held consultations on the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations. Council members agreed to hold a formal meeting on 28 September in order to decide on the referral of the application of Palestine to the Committee on the Admission of New Members for examination and report.

In the course of the consultations, differing views were expressed. Many Council members stated that the applicant fulfilled all the criteria for membership set out in the Charter, and that the question of the recognition of the Palestinian State should not be subject to the outcome of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis. Other members questioned whether the applicant met all of the Charter membership requirements, and stated that the two-State solution through a

negotiated settlement remained the only option for a long-term and sustainable peace.

On 28 September, the Council held a public meeting and had before it the application of Palestine. The Council decided to refer the application to the Committee on the Admission of New Members for examination and report.

Non-proliferation (Islamic Republic of Iran)

On 7 September, the Council heard a briefing during which the Permanent Representative of Colombia, Néstor Osorio, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), reported to the Council on the work of the Committee from 24 June to 1 September 2011. Council members commended the efforts of the Committee in carrying out its mandate, and emphasized their commitment to a comprehensive and long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 22 September, the Council held a high-level meeting on the maintenance of international peace and security, with a focus on conflict prevention. The President of Lebanon, Michel Sleiman, presided over the meeting, which was also attended by five other Heads of State or Government (Colombia, Gabon, Nigeria, South Africa and Portugal), seven Ministers for Foreign Affairs (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the Permanent Representative of the United States of America (in her capacity as a member of the United States Cabinet) and the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation.

The Secretary-General participated in the meeting and gave a briefing in which he introduced his report on preventive diplomacy. He stated that political will was fundamental if preventive diplomacy was to deliver results, and emphasized that the United Nations had always sought to strengthen preventive diplomacy. He also explained how United Nations missions were daily carrying out preventive diplomacy in various parts of the world, and underlined that the Council could do much to address emerging threats, whether or not they were on the Council's agenda. He concluded that better preventive diplomacy was not an option, but a necessity.

Members of the Council highlighted the importance of preventive diplomacy for the maintenance of international peace and security, with many pointing out that timely and efficient prevention was more cost-effective than reactive response following the outbreak of violence. They also underlined that it was important that the United Nations strengthen its partnerships with regional organizations and fully utilize their political and geographic advantages to actively engage them in preventive diplomacy initiatives. Some members expressed the view that the entanglement of threats required that early warning systems be developed and fully utilized. They recognized the importance of optimizing the use of preventive tools, including mediation, and expressed the view that a comprehensive approach to prevention required that the root causes of conflict, including their socio-economic aspects, be addressed.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement in which it expressed its determination to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in preventing the eruption of armed conflicts, their escalation or spread when they occur, and their resurgence once they have ended.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

On 14 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2006 (2011), by which it reappointed Hassan Bubacar Jallow as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for a term with effect from 15 September 2011 until 31 December 2014, and resolution 2007 (2011), by which it reappointed Serge Brammertz as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for a term with effect from 1 January 2012 until 31 December 2014.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Terrorist attack in India

On 7 September, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the terrorist attack that had occurred in Delhi, India, on the same day, causing numerous deaths and injuries. The Council reiterated its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

Tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001

On 9 September, the Council issued a statement to the press on the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, condemning those heinous attacks and expressing the deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of terrorism and their families.